

## Overview

- Rated PG-13 for supernatural action and some crude humor
- Paul Feig directed
- Sony Pictures distributed
- July 15, 2016 release in US
- 144 million dollar budget

## Quick Thoughts

- Phil Svitek
- Caroline Feraday
- Stephanie Wenger
- Zach Wilson (from booth)

## Development

- During the 1990s, [Dan Aykroyd](#)'s concept for a third Ghostbusters film revolved around the Ghostbusters traveling to an alternate, hellish version of New York City. Columbia Pictures balked at the proposed \$150m budget
- In the late 2000s, [Harold Ramis](#) and [Dan Aykroyd](#) supervised a script for a third Ghostbusters film written by [Year One](#) (2009) co-writers [Gene Stupnitsky](#) and [Lee Eisenberg](#). [Bill Murray](#) later said, in an interview with GQ, that he never read the script after Year One was a commercial and critical failure. Later, [Etan Cohen](#) wrote a draft. Aykroyd vehemently denied a rumor that Murray shredded the script. During an appearance on the Howard Stern Show, Murray admitted he had not read that draft either
- [Jason Reitman](#), son of original [Ghostbusters](#) (1984) director [Ivan Reitman](#), was asked in an interview if he would consider directing the reboot. Reitman joked that, based on his existing work, his version of the film would just be people talking about ghosts
- Before the reboot, various scripts and ideas for a third film in the *Ghostbusters* series had long been planned
  - These ideas included one in which Bill Murray's character was transformed into a ghost, and another in which the Ghostbusters went to [hell](#)
- Murray's reticence to commit to the project and the death of Harold Ramis resulted in the decision to reboot the franchise instead
- The project was officially announced in 2014, with [Paul Feig](#) slated as the director

## Writing (Paul Feig & Katie Dippold)

- Feig has stated that he was partly inspired by the TV series [The Walking Dead](#), adding that his goal was to "tell a story you haven't seen before. Or tell a story you've seen before, but in a way you haven't seen it"
- Katie is known for *The Heat* and *Parks and Rec*

## Story/Cast

- Feig tweeted a picture announcing the main cast of [Kristen Wiig](#), [Melissa McCarthy](#), [Kate McKinnon](#) and [Leslie Jones](#) in January 2015, although it initially was unclear if the cast had been officially decided at that point
- [Emma Stone](#) was approached to star but declined partly because "a franchise [was] a big commitment"

- [Jennifer Lawrence](#) and [Rebel Wilson](#) were considered by director Paul Feig for roles in the movie
- [Cecily Strong](#) at one point was also considered for a leading role, and appears in a supporting role in the finished film
- On August 1, 2015, during filming, the lead cast of the film visited the patients at the [Tufts Medical Center](#) in Boston
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:** This as a reboot?
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:** Too many throwbacks?
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:** The villain
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:** Brains vs action
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:** Too self referential?
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:** Not NYC enough?
- **POINT OF DISCUSSION:** Comedy and quotability
- [Melissa McCarthy](#) as Abby Yates
  - Comparing her rise as a star - The Heat (2.5 million) vs Ghostbusters (14 million)
  - Known for Bridesmaids, The Heat, Central Intelligence, The Boss, Spy, Saint Vincent
  - Trademark: Often does physical comedy
  - "I grew up with funny and interesting women, and my friends are funny, interesting women. So I can't think of any story where those women don't come into play. It's the same as how I can't imagine writing a story with no men. It's just not real."
- [Kristen Wiig](#) as Erin Gilbert
  - Known for Bridesmaids, The Martian, Despicable Me 2, Secret Life of Walter Mitte, Sausage Party, Zoolander 2
  - In April 2009, Wiig was featured in Entertainment Weekly's list of the 25 Funniest Women in Hollywood
  - "It's a mystery to me what makes people laugh."
- [Kate McKinnon](#) as Jillian Holtzmann
  - Known for SNL, Finding Dory, Ted 2
  - "I was very serene, and I still am, until I start talking in another voice, then suddenly I have a lot of volume and I'm frantic. But I didn't want to be one of those people who's always talking in accents in real life, so I started doing sketch comedy."
  - Paul Feig says she was supposed to be gay but studio stopped him:  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/films/news/ghostbusters-paul-feig-confirms-kate-mckinnon-character-jillian-holtzmann-is-gay-but-studio-stopped-a7136051.html>
- [Leslie Jones](#) as Patty Tolan
  - Known for SNL, Trainwreck, Wrongfully Accused, The League
  - Jones became the target of a number of abusive, racist and sexist messages directed at her [Twitter](#) account. After a long string of such messages, Jones had considered leaving Twitter, though a number of people, including Feig, showed support and encouraged her to stay while criticizing Twitter for not handling the situation better. Jones subsequently reported abuse of Twitter's service used by [Breitbart](#) writer [Milo Yiannopoulos](#), who had been criticizing Jones; Twitter followed by barring Yiannopoulos from the service on July 19, 2016, among others, due to increased abusive behavior over the previous 48 hours

- The role of Patty Tolan, played by [Leslie Jones](#) was originally written for [Melissa McCarthy](#). Director [Paul Feig](#) realized that [Melissa McCarthy](#) had played similar characters in his previous films, explaining "I wanted to unleash Leslie on the public in the same way we unleashed Melissa on the public in *Bridesmaids* (2011), with a very showy role."
- [Chris Hemsworth](#) as Kevin Beckman
- [Cecily Strong](#) as Jennifer Lynch
- [Andy Garcia](#) as Mayor Bradley
- [Neil Casey](#) as Rowan North
- [Charles Dance](#) as Harold Filmore
- [Michael Kenneth Williams](#) as Agent Hawkins
- [Matt Walsh](#) as Agent Rourke
- [Michael McDonald](#) as Jonathan, the Theater Manager
- [Ed Begley Jr.](#) as Ed Mulgrave
- [Steve Higgins](#) as Dean Thomas Shanks
- [Toby Huss](#) as Officer Stevenson
- [Nate Corddry](#) as Graffiti Artist
- [Zach Woods](#) as Tour Guide
- [Karan Soni](#) as Benny
- [Katie Dippold](#) as Rental Agent
- [Jessica Chaffin](#) as Waitress
- [Jamie Denbo](#) as Waitress
- [Dave Allen](#) as Electrocuted Ghost
- [Steve Bannos](#) as Flasher Ghost
- Adam Ray as [Slimer](#) (voice)

**Cameos:**

- [Bill Murray](#) as Martin Heiss
- [Dan Aykroyd](#) as Cabbie
- [Sigourney Weaver](#) as Rebecca Gorin
- [Ernie Hudson](#) as Uncle Bill Jenkins
- [Annie Potts](#) as Hotel Desk Clerk
- [Ozzy Osbourne](#) as Himself
  - "Someone called, and I said yes. The original had been a big film in our household, when the kids were younger. My children were probably more excited than I was [about me being] in the new film. I was only on the set for a few hours. And even though I was not in a scene with the ladies, they all came around to say hello. I felt very honored."
- [Al Roker](#) as Himself
- [Pat Kiernan](#) as Himself
- [Rosanna Scotto](#) as Herself
- [Greg Kelly](#) as Himself

**Easter Eggs/Symbols/Comparisons**

- In some of the posters featuring Holtzman (Kate McKinnon), on her proton pack is the number 2206. This is the same number as Dana Barrett's apartment in the original *Ghostbusters*
- The hotel where the ghosts appear is the same hotel used in the tv series *American Horror Story: The Hotel*

- The movie is dedicated to Harold Ramis, as mentioned in the final credits
- Daniel Ramis, son of Harold Ramis of the original 1984 Ghostbusters, has a small role as a Metal Head outside the concert Rowan attends
- [Bill Murray](#)'s character at one point mentions Casper (the friendly ghost). In [Casper](#) (1995), [Dan Aykroyd](#) makes a brief appearance in a very fitting cameo, reprising his role as Ghostbuster Ray Stantz, complete with jumpsuit and proton pack
- The character Dean Thomas Shanks, portrayed by [Steve Higgins](#) was an homage to [John Candy](#), who played Mellonville Mayor, Tommy Shanks on [SCTV](#) (1976).
- In Trainwreck, Amy Schumer's character is on a stalled subway train, standing next to Leslie Jones' character. She asks why is the train stalled and Jones says "Do I look like I work for the MTA?". In Ghostbusters, Jones does work for the MTA
- [Melissa McCarthy](#), [Zach Woods](#), [Jessica Chaffin](#), [Michael McDonald](#), [Adam Ray](#), [Nate Corddry](#), and [Steve Bannos](#) all worked together on [The Heat](#)
- [Melissa McCarthy](#) and [Dan Aykroyd](#) previously co-starred together in [Tammy](#) (2014).
- [Melissa McCarthy](#) and [Bill Murray](#) previously co-starred together in [St. Vincent](#)
- [Melissa McCarthy](#) and [Kristen Wiig](#) were together on [Bridesmaids](#) (2011), also directed by [Paul Feig](#)
- Slimer eating hot dogs from a street vendor is not only a reference to his original appearance in the first [Ghostbusters](#) (1984), but it also references [Chris Hemsworth](#)'s earlier drawing, which he describes as a ghost levitating a hot dog
- Holtzman calls Pringles potato chips "salty parabolas". The shape of a Pringles potato chip really is a hyperbolic paraboloid or a saddle surface
- Some scenes were filmed at the Ames family Stone Mansion at Borderland State Park in Massachusetts, where the Stone Lodge/Lake scenes for Shutter Island were filmed
- During the end credits, Holtzmann says she's made some new Ghostbuster equipment. She then says she doesn't know where the ghosts are after they are captured but she thinks it might be Michigan. Director Paul Feig is from Michigan
- Four of the cast members, [Kristen Wiig](#), [Leslie Jones](#), [Kate McKinnon](#), and [Cecily Strong](#) have been [Saturday Night Live](#) (1975) regulars. [Melissa McCarthy](#) has also hosted SNL four times. [Bill Murray](#) and [Dan Aykroyd](#) were also SNL stars, and co-star [Harold Ramis](#) was a writer for the Canadian sketch show [SCTV](#) (1976), co-starring [Rick Moranis](#)
- The book called Ghost From Our Past from the movie is actually available to buy on amazon and the authors are marked as Erin Gilbert And Abby L. Yates who are two of the main characters of the movie
- In an after credits scene, [Leslie Jones](#)' character (Patty Tolan) is running through a tape player previously referenced in an electronic voice phenomena related fart gag. Suddenly, she looks up from the machine and says she thinks she's got something to the rest of the team. When they all look, she asks, "What's Zuul?" They all shrug in confusion

### Directing (Paul Feig)

- Known for [Spy](#), [Bridesmaids](#), [The Heat](#), [The Office](#)
- Usually works with female heavy casts
- Always wears a suit and tie when he directs
- "The director is the only person on the set who has seen the film. Your job as a director is to show up every day and know where everything will fit into the film."
- "To me, comedy is drama."

- [Twitter reply on Sep 24 2015] You've been ranting at me and my cast [of [Ghostbusters\(2016\)](#)] for months with misogyny and insults. So go fuck yourself. Goodnight. #enough

### Production/Cinematography

- [Principal photography](#) on the film began on June 17, 2015, in Boston
- Feig and the set dressers Carolyn Lassek and Claudia Bonfe consulted with MIT physicists before shooting
- Filming also took place in [Chinatown, Boston](#) for a few days in early July 2015
- After finishing at the old [Naval Air Station](#) in South [Weymouth](#), filming began in [Tribeca](#) in [New York City](#) on September 12
- On September 15, filming was taking place in [Waltham](#)
- Filming also took place outside of [Columbia University](#) in New York
- Filming wrapped on September 19, 2015, in New York City
- Filmed by Robert D. Yeoman previously worked on *The Grand Budapest Hotel* and *Bridesmaids*, etc

### Wardrobe/Make-Up

- On June 29, 2015, Feig tweeted the costumes of the four Ghostbusters

### Editing/VFX

- By Melissa Bretherton and Brent White, known for *40 Year Old Virgin*, *Knocked Up*, *Anchorman*
- In an interview with 'Den of Geek', [Paul Feig](#) revealed that the first cut of the movie was 4 hours and 15 minutes long

### Sound/Music

- By Theodore Shapiro previously worked on *Spy*, *Secret Life of Walter Mitty*, *Tropic Thunder*, etc.

### Promotion

- The first *Ghostbusters* trailer was released on March 3, 2016
- It was viewed 24 million times in 24 hours on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#), and more than 60 million times across all social media platforms in its first week
  - The decision to ignore the events of the previous films and the portrayal of [Leslie Jones](#)' character, Patty Tolan, as a "street smart New Yorker" led many to associate it as a [stereotype for African Americans](#), while the other three actresses portrayed the role of scientists
- On the morning of its release, the trailer collected 12,000 "thumbs up" and 13,800 "thumbs down" votes from YouTube viewers, leading David Griner of *Ad Week* to regard it as "one of the most polarizing in recent memory"
- By May 2016, the trailer had become the [most disliked](#) film trailer on YouTube and the ninth-most disliked video on the site, with 266,000 likes to nearly one million dislikes, with most of the criticism directed at the portrayed humor
- [ScreenCrush](#) described the reaction as a concerted campaign "to downvote it into oblivion" by "a certain subset of people on the internet [with] an unhealthy fixation with hating on the *Ghostbusters* remake"

- The original cast, including Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Ernie Hudson and Annie Potts, joined the new cast on the June 8, 2016, episode of *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, which was entirely dedicated to the new film
- *Ghostbusters* has been at the center of controversy since the announcement of the female leads for the film in January 2015, with a significant amount of criticism appearing on social media regarding the female cast
- Wiig was "bummed out" that "there was so much controversy because we were women"
- Aykroyd responded that he and his family were "delighted by this inheritance of the *Ghostbusters* torch by these most magnificent women in comedy"
- Ivan Reitman weighed in on everything:  
<https://www.rt.com/viral/352378-ivan-reitman-ghostbusters-exclusive/>

### Box Office

- As of July 20, 2016, *Ghostbusters* has grossed \$61.5 million in North America and \$18.1 million in other territories for a worldwide total of \$79.6 million
- In the United States and Canada, Sony initially projected *Ghostbusters* to gross \$30 million in its opening weekend
  - However, following favorable reviews and an effective marketing campaign, the studio raised their projection to somewhere around \$40 million while still remaining conservative
- Most industry projections had the film opening between \$40–50 million
- The film ended up earning \$46 million in its opening weekend from 3,962 theaters, in line with projections, and finished second at the box office behind *The Secret Life of Pets* (\$50.8 million)
- It scored the biggest opening weekend ever for director [Paul Feig](#) and star [Melissa McCarthy](#) and was the biggest live-action comedy debut since *Pitch Perfect 2* in May 2015
- It had number one openings in the United Kingdom and Ireland (\$6.1 million), Australia (\$3.7 million) and Brazil (\$2.2 million). Key upcoming markets include Russia and Italy (July 28), Germany (August 4), France (August 10), Mexico and Spain (August 12) and Japan (August 19)
- The film will not be released in the Chinese market, with "sources close to the China Film Co." stating, "It's been confirmed that *Ghostbusters* won't be coming to China, because they think it's not really that attractive to Chinese audiences...Most of the Chinese audience didn't see the first and second movies, so they don't think there's much market for it here."
- In the film's 3-D version, it is letterboxed and certain 3-D elements show overtop of the black bars

### Reception

- On review aggregator [Rotten Tomatoes](#), the film has an approval rating of 73%, based on 260 reviews, with an average rating of 6.4/10
- The site's critical consensus reads, "*Ghostbusters* does an impressive job of standing on its own as a freewheeling, marvelously cast supernatural comedy – even if it can't help but pale somewhat in comparison with the classic original."
- On [Metacritic](#), the film has a score of 60 out of 100, based on 52 critics, indicating "mixed or average reviews"
- [CinemaScore](#) gave the film an average grade of "B+"

- [Manohla Dargis](#) of *The New York Times* praised the film as "that rarest of big-studio offerings — a movie that is a lot of enjoyable, disposable fun."
- Mike Ryan of *Uproxx* gave the film a positive review, writing: "When *Ghostbusters* focuses on the team and the characters (always Feig's strength), it flourishes. It's only when it gets bogged down in CGI ghosts that, sometimes, it starts to drag. But, this is 2016 and a summer action movie needs to keep moving."
- J.R. Kinnard of *PopMatters* wrote: "There's certainly fun to be had at the new *Ghostbusters*. Feig is a gifted filmmaker and his actors all possess impeccable comic timing. While there isn't a cynical note in the entire film, it feels like a safe, flavorless recipe prepared from gourmet ingredients."
- In *The Guardian*, Nigel M Smith awarded the film four out of five stars and wrote that: "The new *Ghostbusters* is good. Very good, in fact. The mean-spirited reception to the film before anyone had seen it does not seem to have put a dampener on the movie itself. Fun oozes from almost every frame; likewise the energy of a team excited to be revolutionising the blockbuster landscape."
- *The Guardian* critic [Mark Kermode](#) awarded the film three out of five stars and wrote that "it would have been great to report that the finished film is good enough to shut the bigoted naysayers up once and for all ... The harsh truth is that it isn't – at least, not quite. Although infinitely more crowd-pleasing than the poisonous trolls had hoped, the new *Ghostbusters* is at best a qualified success, an often entertaining, generally likable, but also uneven affair."
- Importance of female Ghostbusters:  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2016/07/21/ghostbusters-costume\\_n\\_11116902.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2016/07/21/ghostbusters-costume_n_11116902.html)

### Sequel/Legacy

- Sony's president of worldwide distribution, Rory Bruer, told *The Wrap* that "while nothing has been officially announced, there's no doubt in my mind [a sequel] will happen." He also said that *Ghostbusters* is expected to become an important Sony franchise
- The scene sees the new Ghostbusters hanging out in the lab together, Holtzman showing off her oversized nut crusher while Patty turns on a machine that, somehow, can hear Ghosts. Instead of another fart joke, however, Leslie Jones's character actually hear's something other-worldly, asking her co-workers, "What is Zuul?"
- "We wanted to say possibly there's something you know from the first one [that] can come in," director Paul Feig said in a recent interview. "But it's not about creating the cinematic universe where suddenly there's a worm-hole and the original Ghostbusters show up, although somebody might do that at some point...It was kind of a little comfort food, Easter egg, that gives us an opening if we wanted to do another movie."

### Final Thoughts